

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1488

January 22, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Changes, from 30 days to 15 days, the length of time prior to an election in which a qualified voter may register to vote.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

\$70,400/FY18-19

Exceeds \$70,000/FY19-20 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$140,000/FY18-19 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Exceeds \$70,000/FY21-22 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102, the early voting period begins 20 days prior to an election.
- The proposed language would extend the voter registration period to 15 days prior to an election, which would result in five days of voter registration overlapping with the early voting period.
- In order to process both voter registrations and voters participating in early voting during the five overlapping days, some counties will require additional computers and staff.
- According to the Secretary of State's office, 90 early voting satellite locations will require an extra computer at an estimated cost of \$665 each.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures for purchasing computers is estimated to be \$59,850 (\$665 per computer x 90 computers).
- Voter registration applications will be reprinted to reflect the correct voter registration deadline, resulting in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$70,350 (\$59,850 computer costs + \$10,500 application reprinting).
- Based on information provided by the Secretary of State, the costs for additional staff requirements are estimated to exceed \$70,000 statewide per election cycle.

- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore in FY19-20 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$70,000 for additional staff.
- In FY18-19 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$140,000 (\$70,000 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY21-22 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$70,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh